United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

NOV 20 2012

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your Committee's continued interest in circumstances surrounding the September 11 attacks in Benghazi.

As you know, we have identified a large number of records related to these attacks in response to Congressional requests. In order to facilitate your Committee's review, we are making these records available to the Committee in a secure reading room located in the Senate Security Office, SVC-217, and open from 9AM to 5PM daily, starting at 9AM on Wednesday, November 21. These materials are accessible to Members and cleared staff at your convenience.

These records contain classified and other sensitive information, including information about the security of U.S. diplomatic missions overseas, foreign government information, and personal privacy information, the unauthorized release of which could cause damage to national security and foreign relations.

In an effort to make the best use of Department resources and to protect the sensitive information contained within the documents, the documents will remain in the custody of the Senate Security Office and the Department will provide a representative to be present while staff review the documents. In order to facilitate access, the Department asks that the Committee provide the Department and the Senate Security Office with a list of appropriately-cleared committee staff who are permitted to access the documents.

The Honorable
Joseph Lieberman, Chairman,
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs,
United States Senate

As with previous tranches of documents in this document production, the Department will continue to make copies of these records available for the Committee's *in camera* review and reviewers will have access to the documents on a read-only basis. Reviewers may take notes but will not be permitted to copy the documents or remove them from the reading room, regardless of the document's classification level. Finally, the Department respectfully requests a minimum of three hours notice from reviewers seeking access to the documents, so that we may ensure we can provide a representative in a timely manner. As our records search and review continues, we anticipate making additional records available in the reading room on a rolling basis.

Please contact me so we can arrange for review of these documents. Congress has been and must continue to be a full partner in providing for the security of our diplomatic and development professionals overseas. We look forward to continued cooperation on this important effort.

Sincerely,

David S. Adams
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs

cc: The Honorable Susan Collins